

Veterans Day Essay Contest Submission

Internal Communications Coordinator
(tucson)Honoring Sacrifice and Commitment
of our Nation's Veterans

Doug Dowdy, AOC #134654

This essay is about honoring the sacrifice and commitment of my father, one of our Nation's Veterans. Before I was even born, my father joined the United States Army. In every way possible my father served our country honorably. On what appeared to be a routine day in 1969, my father was seriously injured while assisting our great Nation. I believe that the incredible man my father is today, has a lot to do with the sacrifices and commitments made during his service to our Nation's Military.

At age seventeen, my father answered our Nation's call to aid and entered into the Army. Even in his youth and the growing controversy of the Vietnam conflict, my father proudly enlisted his services to the United States Army. With the proper training my father became a Artilleryman. Shortly afterwards, my father found himself in a completely different world known as Vietnam. It is my personal belief, that this experience has helped to shape the beautiful character I know as my father.

My father has served our Country with unquestionable honor. He was committed to the full understanding of the operational details, efficiency, and maintenance of the equipment provided for his warfare assignment. Artillerymen are trained to know the importance of accurately aiming and firing artillery weapons, my father focused his attention to such tasks. Like so many of the amazing men and women serving in our Nation's military, my father did his job to the absolute best of his abilities. The honorable men and women in military professions, place themselves in harms way to protect their brothers-in-arms, friends, and loved ones - my dad is among those exceptional individuals.

In performing the daily activities of his obligation, my father was injured in the line of duty. An attempt to defuse an unexploded shell went terribly wrong and it exploded. The explosion blew off my fathers arm and covered his entire body with shrapnel. Despite the hardships and challenge facing him, my father refused to give up on himself or his crippled limb. I think that those sacrifices and display of commitment by my father in overcoming his injuries, exhibit the type of strength and determination our Nation's troops possess.

To conclude, honoring the sacrifice and commitment of our Nation's Veterans is worthy of every American's respect. My father's tour 'in the U.S. Army' is but one of the countless stories of our Nation's heroes. Each member of the Nation's Military branches deserves to be held in honor for their loyalty and adversities endured for this country. War is a very dangerous place filled with hardships, injuries, and death - those who have served in our military have experienced this beyond that which my simple words can convey. My heart and love goes out to every person of the Armed Services, for their sacrifice and steadfast commitment to the United States of America.

In honor of all those courageous souls of the United States of America's Armed Forces.

Doug Dady #134654

ASPC-Tucson

10-16-2008